



**CITY OF  
VAN METER**

# Van Meter News

**November 2013**

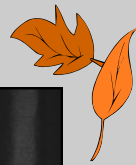
## City Council Election— Candidate Profiles



**Andrew "Drew" Kendall**



**Chris Knoll**



**Regular City Election  
November 5  
Polls open 7am to 8pm  
Vote at the VM United  
Methodist Church**



**Michael Peterson**



**John Seefeld**

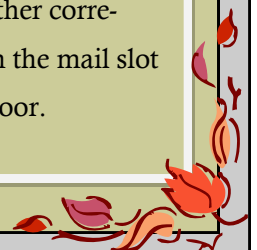


**Elizabeth Tweed**



**Owen Stump**

City offices will be closed on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday. Please visit our website for general information [www.vanmeteria.gov](http://www.vanmeteria.gov). Residents can leave payments and other correspondence in the mail slot next to the door.





**Veteran's Day—  
Monday, November 11**

An official United States holiday honoring people who have served in the armed services. It coincides with other holidays such as Armistice Day and Remembrance Day.

Words cannot adequately express our gratitude to the men and women who protect our country and ensure our freedoms.



God Bless America!



**Thank You!  
Veterans!**

**Andrew Kendall**

My name is Andrew Kendall a lot of people know me as Drew. I moved to Van Meter about 7 years ago with my five children. Three of my children attend Van Meter Schools.

I am a member of the Van Meter Fire Department. I joined the first day I moved to Van Meter about 7 years ago. The reason that I am running for City Council is the same reason that I am on the Fire Department. That is, to help people in our community. I have given a lot to the people of Van Meter and I wish to continue as a City Council Member.

People need a voice that they can trust, a voice of the people. I like many others feel that your word is your bond. I pledge to do my best for the people. Hopefully I will have the pleasure to serve as a Council Member for the Citizens of Van Meter.

**Chris Knoll**

My Name is Chris Knoll, and I am running for Van Meter City Council.

*About Me:*

- Married to Michelle
- Have one son, Cooper
- Have been a resident of Van Meter since June of 2011
- Graduate of Grand View University, Secondary Education- Social Sciences Program, 2009
- Work history includes Assistant Day Camp Director of Living History Farms Day Camp
- Programs and Youth Community Service Program Manager with The Homestead

*Why I'm running for City Council:* Since our moving to Van Meter in 2011, Michelle and I have greatly enjoyed the small town atmosphere, and way of life that Van Meter has to offer. We are a tight knit community, made up of unique individuals from many walks of life. This is one of our greatest strengths. With the rapid expansion of Des Moines proper and its surrounding cities, the citizens of Van Meter have an opportunity to begin paving the way for the next generation. With strategic planning, and financial responsibility, we can prepare for future growth and development while continuing to hold our high standards of small town values where we feel safe to let our children walk through town, play in the parks, and hold pride in our educational system.

I want to work with city departments as well as churches, the local Boy Scout and Cub Scout troop, and other city businesses to unite, strengthen, and beautify Van Meter to help attract future city collaboration and income possibilities. I believe economic development is a necessity; however, it should be done in a financially responsible manor, while preserving our small town pride.

Finally, yet most importantly, as a City Council member, I am merely a representative for the citizens. Those who know me well know that my door is always open and that I hold a genuine care and concern for others. I truly believe the thoughts and opinions of other city residents should be the focal point of decisions made by the city council.

Thank you for your consideration, and I would greatly appreciate your support during the November election!

**Michael Peterson**

My name is Michael Peterson and I am running for City Council. In 2008 I married my high school sweetheart at the Van Meter United Methodist Church. My wife, Stacy, a life long resident of Van Meter, who many of you might know by her maiden name Stacy McNace, teaches 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade at our wonderful school. We bought our home in 2009 and have loved living here ever since. This July we became the proud parents of a little boy, Christopher. I have proudly served the City of Van Meter through the Fire Rescue Department as a fire fighter and medic, volunteering countless hours.

For the last six years I have worked as the operations supervisor for The Conley Group Inc., a contract security agency based in Urbandale. Professionally, I have served to protect people and their businesses. I have personally served many national political candidates, government agencies and educational institutions.

Growing up as an Army brat and moving around a lot, I never truly had a real hometown so I have adopted Van Meter as mine. I care about Van Meter and want to ensure that the qualities that make our town unique and special are preserved. Elected officials have a direct impact on each citizen, often more so than understood, especially at the city level. It is the duty of each elected official to do what is truly best for the community, not merely self-service, but what is actually best for the city.

I think Van Meter is a great place to live and raise a family. I want to help our community continue to grow and thrive by making positive improvements. We have a unique opportunity to live in a small town on the outskirts of an urban area. We should work hard to improve our community without losing the traditions of our beautiful small town, which draw people to Van Meter.

As an experienced manager I know I will do a good job representing Van Meter as an elected official. I believe that we need to restore professionalism and decorum to the council and that our elected officials should truly act as the servants of the public they swore to be. I will do my best to listen to your ideas and opinions and, with your help, make the best choices to allow our community to prosper. I would appreciate your vote on Tuesday, November 5th.

#### **John Seefeld**

My wife Lesa and I have lived in Van Meter since 2000. We moved here from Des Moines looking for small town experiences and a great school district. We found both. As our community moves forward, I feel it is important to keep the small town feel and atmosphere, but also address the infrastructure needed, so we can expand in a controlled manner. I was privileged to serve as Van Meter's Mayor several years ago. Since then I served 7 years on the Van Meter School Board (2 years as Board President), and most recently as President of the Van Meter City Library Board. I am also involved in the Salisbury House Foundation in a volunteer capacity.

I feel my past experience as Mayor and Library Board President have prepared me very well to serve the community as a member of the City Council. I ask for your support in the upcoming election.

#### **Owen Stump**

My name is Owen Stump. I have lived in Van Meter for 21 years. I am retired from Adel DeSoto Minburn School District, where I taught for twenty-seven years. The reason I am running for Van Meter City Council is to give back to the community where I live.

As a council member, I will do what is best for the city of Van Meter. To make sure we plan and work for future growth, while working within our budget to bring this about.

#### **Elizabeth Tweed**

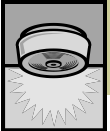
I grew up in a small town in Iowa and earned my Bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa. My career after college included positions in purchasing, marketing and business administration. I currently work as a Domestic Engineer serving my husband and three children. I am actively involved in church and am a leader for a mothers' group. I was able to serve on Van Meter's RAGBRAI committee this summer. I thoroughly enjoyed working with citizens and learning the small town dynamics that make Van Meter special. My positive experience working with the residents of Van Meter and passion for community has led me to run for City Council.

*My goals for City Council are:* Bring new life to the City Rec Complex by creating a business plan to make it profitable, setting up standard operating guidelines and marketing its usage to other cities/organizations.

- Encourage economic development to increase Van Meter's revenue.
- Allow for residential growth while maintaining the community's character.
- Increase water quality.
- Represent Van Meter residents with no hidden agenda.

Thank you in advance for your vote on November 5<sup>th</sup>!





### Safety Tip:

**“Remember to  
change the  
batteries in  
your smoke  
alarms when  
you set your  
clocks back on  
November  
3rd.”**



### UPCOMING EVENT!

Winter/heating season is here. Have you had your furnace serviced? Don't wait to find you have no heat when you need it or worse yet, your furnace doesn't work right and you have a potential for carbon monoxide poisoning.

## Van Meter Department of Public Safety



Captain Jon Bruen receiving his Chief's rank collar insignia from Chief Gary Herrick after being appointed the new Fire Chief effective January 1, 2014 when Chief Herrick retires.

For students at Van Meter Pre-K there are very few things more exciting than a fire truck and a fireman. Pictured to the left is Chris Reha and some lil' Bulldogs!



October was Fire Safety Month. Members of the Van Meter Fire Department took time off to make Fire Prevention Week an educational experience for the Van Meter School children. Personnel also went to the daycare center to display a truck and other firefighting equipment. THANK YOU! Van Meter Fire and Rescue for everything that you do for our community!

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer to serve the VM Dept of Public Safety please contact a current member or City Hall.

## ANNUAL VAN METER FIRE & RESCUE

### Firehouse Chili Feed

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

**At the Van Meter Fire House**

Warm up from the cold with

Chili \* corn bread \* dessert \*

coffee \* hot chocolate

**\$5.00 per person**



# Check It Out!

Phone: 515-996-2435  
Email: [jwelker@vanmeteria.gov](mailto:jwelker@vanmeteria.gov) &/or  
[mboren@vanmeteria.gov](mailto:mboren@vanmeteria.gov)

## THE VAN METER PUBLIC LIBRARY

**NOVEMBER** – Thanksgiving, turkey, ham, football, beautiful leaves and family!

What do you look forward to in the autumn? I love being outdoors. Iowa Outdoors, The Iowan, and Pheasants Forever are great magazines that your library subscribes to. These magazines give you great ideas for the outdoors.



I also love the thought of curling up with a great read. **Here are a few new titles:**

- "Bomb Shell" by Catherine Coulter,
- "School's Out Forever" by Scott Andrews,
- "Earth Afire" by Orson Scott Card,
- "The Kill Room" by Jeffrey Deaver,
- "Sweet Salt Air" by Barbara Delinsky,
- "True Love" by Jude Devraux.



**The new DVDs are:**

- Pacific Rim
- Oblivion
- World War Z
- Monster University
- The Croods
- The Blues Brothers
- The World's End (pre-ordered)... **and more!**



Plan to attend the library on Wednesday, November 20, at 4pm as Dallas County Conservation Naturalists, Cindy Blobaum and Laura Zaugg educate library users about animals. They will have books and artifacts and other things to share with the kids.

DALLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD  
14581 K AVENUE  
PERRY IA 50220  
515-465-3577  
[WWW.CONSERVATION.CO.DALLAS.IA.US](http://WWW.CONSERVATION.CO.DALLAS.IA.US)

***Remember to be thankful and count your blessings!***



**CITY OF  
VAN METER**

PO Box 160  
505 Grant Street  
Van Meter, IA 50261

Phone: 515-996-2644  
Fax: 515-996-2207  
Email: [info@vanmeteria.gov](mailto:info@vanmeteria.gov)

Elected Officials:

Mayor

-Allan Adams

Council

-Becca Wiederholt

Mayor Pro Tem

-Richard Booge

-Adam Coyle

-Bob Lacy

-Kim Sacker

City Staff:

Jake Anderson-  
City Administrator

Liz Thompson-  
Deputy Clerk

Dave Herman-  
Public Works

Chad Gillespie-  
Asst. Public Works

Jolena Welker-  
Library Director  
([vanmeterpl@mchsi.com](mailto:vanmeterpl@mchsi.com))

-Library—996-2435

-Post Office—

996-2458

-Veterans Recept

Center—996-9166

-Non-Emergency—

Dallas Co. Dispatch—

993-4567

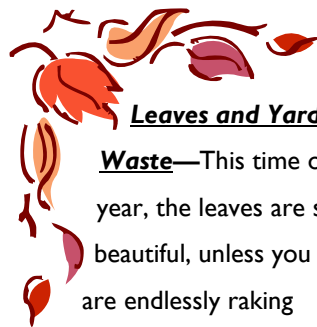
-Emergency—911

-Bill Daggett

DPS Chief—202-4154

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

## City Hall Reminders



### Leaves and Yard

**Waste**—This time of year, the leaves are so beautiful, unless you are endlessly raking them.

You can bag your leaves and yard waste and Waste Connections will dispose of them with regular trash pickups. They require residents to use the paper sacks/yard waste bags—**DO NOT USE PLASTIC BAGS**. They will not take them if they are not in the paper bags.

**Garbage Service**—Waste Connections does not pick up on the following holidays: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. If any of these holidays fall on a Monday, the pickup service will be one day late.

**Sidewalks/walkways**—For the safety of walkers, joggers, and bikers, please keep your sidewalks free of debris

and other potential hazards such as snow/ice, branches, leaves, weeds, toys, and vehicles. It is greatly appreciated!

**SAFELY!**

**ACH**—Automated Clearing House. Sign up today to have your monthly utility payment automatically deducted from your savings or checking account. Forms are online or stop by city hall.

**Building Permits**—Permit applications can be obtained from our office or they can be found online at [www.vanmeteria.gov](http://www.vanmeteria.gov).

Decks and fences do not require permits. All other projects, please check with us for a determination. Remember always to call Iowa One Call for locates—the # is 1-800-292-8989 OR dial 811. It's a good idea to do this as well if you're doing some major landscaping or planting trees.



**On November 3rd—  
Remember to "Fall Back."  
Set your clocks back one  
hour.**

## November Calendar

- 11/3—Daylight Savings Time Ends; set your clocks back one hour
- 11/3—American Legion Breakfast
- 11/5—Election Day  
Polls open @ 7 a.m. at the VM United Methodist Church
- 11/11—Veterans Day
- 11/11—City Council Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 11/28 & 29—Happy Thanksgiving; City Offices Closed

Enjoy your Thanksgiving Holiday—Remember all the things you have to be thankful for... like the newsletter!

**SNOW—ready or not. Visit our website [www.vanmeteria.gov](http://www.vanmeteria.gov) for all of our ordinances regarding snow removal, parking and dumping of snow. Check under the tab "documents" to find the information that will save us all some headaches this winter... and be safe!!**

**"LIKE" us on Facebook—City of Van Meter**